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Greece: King Constantine's latest move leaves the question of his early return to Athens up in the air.

In a statement issued yesterday, Constantine said that his only condition for returning was the assurance of a firm and complete timetable for the re-establishment of parliamentary democracy. He wanted publication of a firm date for a referendum on a new constitution and assurances that the people will again be allowed to elect their own government. While the junta may be prepared to offer such assurances, his reference to the regime's "deviations" following the coup of 21 April will not be well received in Athens, particularly by extremists who would be happy to see the King stay in exile. The most recent indications are that the junta does not see the time ripe for the King's return.

The Greek public still appears confused over the actual circumstances surrounding the King's abortive coup attempt. The King's supporters probably have been disillusioned by his failure. Most Greeks seem to be resigned to a long period of junta rule.

[The withdrawal of the Greek troops from Cyprus appears to be continuing. Ankara apparently believes that there will be no slippage in the terms of the Greek-Turkish agreement on the withdrawal.] Turkish ground forces, [however,] remain in a high state of readiness, though there does seem to have been some relaxation in the air force alert.

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Dahomey: The fledgling regime faces a strike by leftist labor elements that could lead to further disruptions.

A newly created "intersyndical committee," evidently dominated by leftist union leaders, has circulated strident tracts calling on the regime to rescind all austerity measures affecting workers or face a new strike today. The tracts also call for an end to foreign "exploitation" and for a lessening of French and US influence. The labor elements responsible, encouraged by the effectiveness of last week's general strike, evidently hope to take advantage of current unrest and discord within the military.

[If there is] a new strike, [the inexperienced young officers who dominate the regime may attempt to suppress it with force] [This] could lead to bloodshed and perhaps general chaos. [On the other hand, if they give in to labor's demands, the country's already bleak financial status would worsen.] The French have not yet advanced the funds promised to Soglo last month. Paris may now be willing, however, to deal with the Kouandete regime now that Soglo has escaped to the French Embassy in Cotonou.

[Lt. Col. Alley, who probably was in on the early planning of the coup, has reportedly been relieved of his position as chief of staff and placed under heavy guard along with other senior officers.]

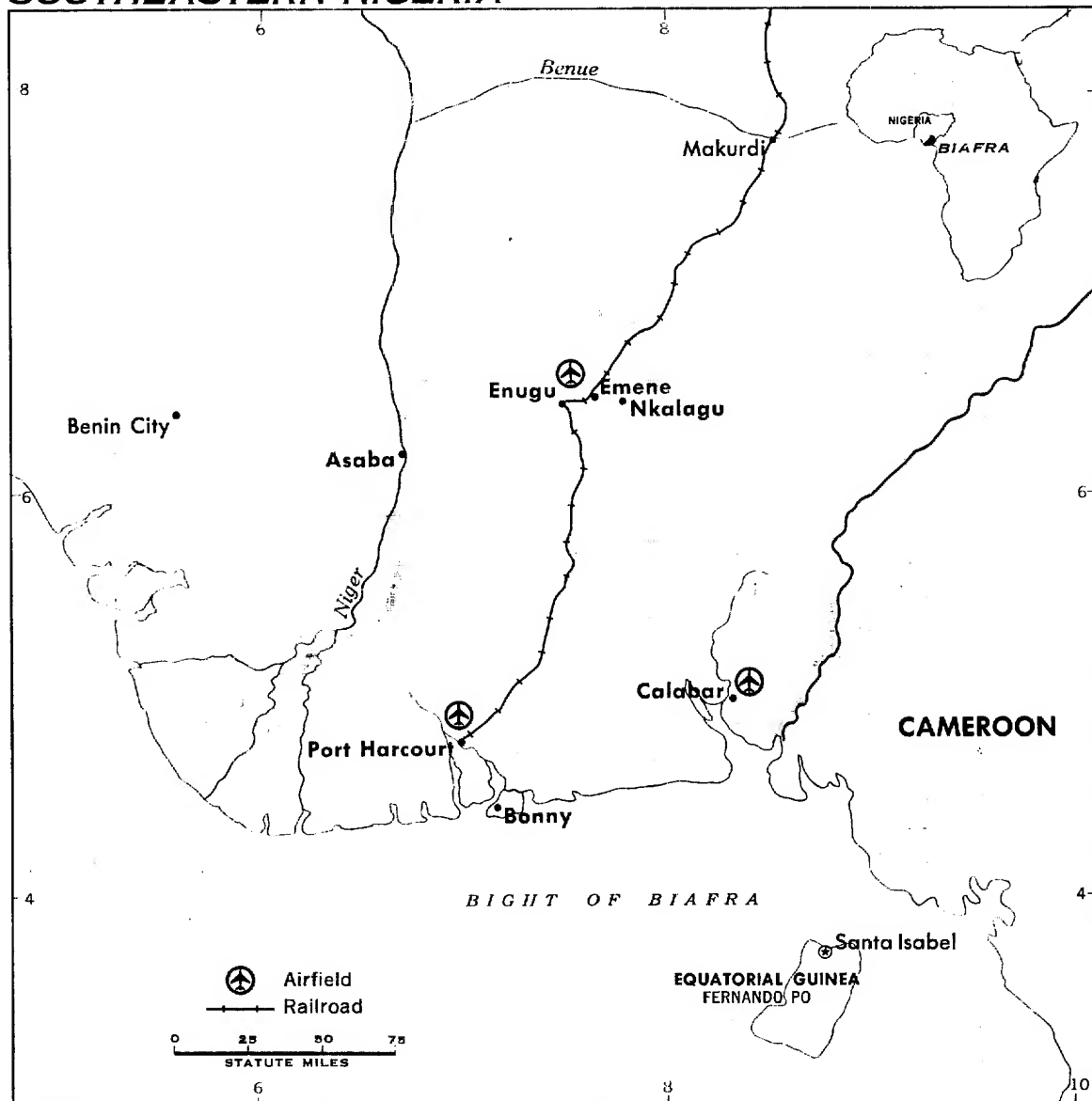
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SOUTHEASTERN NIGERIA



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Nigeria: Federal forces have kept the upper hand, but an end to the civil war is not in sight.

Federal troops at Enugu and Bonny have beaten off a series of rebel attacks, both sides sustaining fairly heavy losses. General Gowon, disturbed at the lack of progress over the past few weeks, has ordered reluctant field commanders to step up activity. Troops in Enugu and Asaba may now renew offensive operations, especially if federal reports of the capture of Emene and Nkalagu are correct. The federal air force may now be able to use Enugu Airfield, but a federal advance south of the former Biafran capital is still likely to be slow and costly.

Federal MIGs and L-29s, operating mainly from Calabar, are being used in a tactical support role. Lagos claims that they have operated effectively against Biafran reinforcements and retreating troops in the Bonny area. Biafra's few vintage bombers have been out of action for some time because of raids on Port Harcourt Airfield, where the MIGs recently hit a transport plane that had just landed.

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All efforts to get the two sides together for peace talks have failed, and future prospects for talks are dim.

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